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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. §132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application  
filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Application No.      | 08/615,876     |
| Filing Date          | March 14, 1996 |
| First Named Inventor | Takashai Oya   |
| Group Art Unit       | 2611           |
| Examiner Name        | V. Srivastava  |
| Atty Docket No.      | 1232-4253US2   |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on December 3, 2001.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on           .
- iii. ☐ Other:
- b. Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. Other:

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**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of        months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. Other:

**3. Fees**

The RCE fee under C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, satisfy any deficiencies or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 for,
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e).
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and/or 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$740.00 enclosed.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

|                   |                      |                       |                   |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Kevin C. Ecker       | Reg. No. (Atty/Agent) | 43,600            |
| Signature         | <i>Kevin C Ecker</i> | Date                  | February 28, 2002 |